

ATTACHMENT THREE

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION

This Environmental Checklist was prepared in support of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the “One-Year Project for the Sale of Water by the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) and its Member Agencies to the CALFED Environmental Water Account (EWA)” proposed by the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA), Citrus Heights Water District (Citrus Heights), Fair Oaks Water District (Fair Oaks), Northridge Water District (Northridge), City of Sacramento (City), and San Juan Water District (San Juan), for the sale of water to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), acting on behalf of the CALFED EWA. The Environmental Checklist is organized in accordance with the CEQA Environmental Checklist Form, an original of which is contained in the Guidelines as Appendix G. Sections on Environmental Justice and Indian Trust Assets were added to comply with the content requirements of NEPA. The Environmental Checklist asks the Lead Agencies (the SGA for CEQA and Reclamation for NEPA) to answer a series of questions regarding the effects of the proposed Project on the environment.

Potentially Significant
Impact

Potentially Significant
Impact Without Mitigation

Less Than Significant
Impact

No Impact

I. AESTHETICS

Would the project:

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will use existing groundwater extraction and reservoir flow release facilities. No construction will be carried out that might affect a scenic vista.

- b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will use existing facilities. No construction will be carried out that might damage scenic resources.

- c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The proposed changes in lower American River flows and Folsom Lake storage will be small and therefore not visually apparent. The changes include the potential for less than a one percent increase in lower American River flows, lower Sacramento River flows, and flows into the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta during March 1, 2002 through November 15, 2002, and an increase of about one-half of one percent in the amount of water normally stored in Folsom Lake during that same period. The effects are considered less-than-significant because they are small, and no mitigation is required.

- d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will utilize existing facilities. Therefore, there will be no new sources of light or glare.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the Project:

- a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
- c) Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in the conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project is a one-year project that will not substantially change existing water supplies, demands, or uses, and therefore will not affect land uses, including farming and farmlands. For this reason, there are no project-related effects, and no mitigation is required.

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the Project:

- a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will utilize existing groundwater extraction facilities. The continued operation of these facilities will not conflict with applicable air quality plans or obstruct implementation.

- b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer c below.

- c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will utilize existing groundwater extraction facilities. The existing pump facilities are powered by electricity provided by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). The electricity requirement for operating the pumps is very small when compared with SMUD's overall supply and demand. Therefore, the Project will not substantially increase demand for electricity or require construction of new generating facilities. Because of this, the Project will not cause violations and will not substantially contribute to violations of air quality standards. In addition, there will be offsetting electricity savings involved in reduced pumping at the Sidney N. Peterson Water Treatment Plant, the E. A. Fairbairn Water Treatment Plant, and Sacramento River Water Treatment Plant. This further reduces the net Project-related electricity use.

- d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The operation of the groundwater extraction facilities does not involve substantial pollutant concentrations. As such, sensitive receptors will not be exposed to substantial pollutants. Furthermore, there are no pollutants associated with the water management component of the Project.

- e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

There are no sources of odor involved in the continued operation of the groundwater extraction facilities that will be used for this proposed Project. Furthermore, there are no odors associated with the water management component of the Project.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the Project:

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer f below.

- b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plan, policies, or regulations, or by California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer f below.

- c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer f below.

- d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer f below.

- e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer f below.

- f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project does not include construction, and therefore there will be no direct construction-related effects on these resources. The one-year duration of the Project eliminates the potential for any Project-related increases in water supply to remove obstacles to population growth. Therefore, there will be no indirect effects related to growth-related construction activities. The water management-related components of the proposed Project involves such small percentages (one percent or less) of lower American River in-stream flows and Folsom Lake storage that measurable changes in either aquatic or adjacent terrestrial habitat will not occur. This is especially so because the lower American River and Folsom Lake is a managed system, and the proposed changes in the timing of releasing water from Folsom Lake are well within the typical operating range of the system. Furthermore, the proposed Project is limited to a one-year period of time, eliminating the potential for small annual changes to cause cumulative long-term changes.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the Project:

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

See answer d below.

- b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resources pursuant to Section 15064.5? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

See answer d below.

- c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

See answer d below.

- d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The proposed Project will utilize existing groundwater extraction and reservoir flow release control facilities. There will be no construction associated with the proposed Project. The proposed Project will be limited to a one-time change in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's decision-making on how the 5,000 acre-feet of surface water diversions forborne at the Sidney N. Peterson Water Treatment Plant will be stored in Folsom Lake and be released under a schedule designed to meet downstream EWA objectives in 2002. Because the

amount of water is small, and the proposed Project will be limited to one year, there will not be a substantial change in Folsom Lake water levels. Therefore, the proposed Project will not have a substantial effect upon lake-margin historic or archaeological resources. These resources include 126 prehistoric sites or components and 59 historic sites mostly related to the Gold Rush era mining, settlement, and transportation. The “Water Forum Proposal Environmental Impact Report” (1999) reported that many of these sites show signs of adverse effects from wave action, inundation, and/or recreation use at the reservoir. However, the proposed Project is considered to have less-than-significant effects because of the small amount of water involved and the limited duration of the proposed Project.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the Project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iv) Landslides? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>See answer e below.</i> | | | | |
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion of the loss of topsoil? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>See answer e below.</i> | | | | |
| c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>See answer e below.</i> | | | | |

- d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer e below.

- e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will utilize existing groundwater extraction and reservoir and river flow control facilities. Therefore, no hazards or hazardous conditions will be created by the proposed Project.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the Project:

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer h below.

- b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

- c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer h below.

- d) Be located on a site, which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer h below.

- e) For a Project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer h below.

- f) For a Project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the Project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer h below.

- g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer h below.

- h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will utilize existing groundwater extraction and reservoir and river flow control facilities. No hazards or hazardous conditions will be created by the proposed Project.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the Project:

- a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The Project will use existing groundwater extraction and reservoir flow release control facilities, and will not involve new construction or the discharge of pollutants.

- b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

This increased extraction of 10,000 acre-feet of groundwater represents about 2.1 percent of the estimated 474,000 acre-feet of annual recharge within the Sacramento County groundwater basin, and will contribute slightly to the groundwater elevation decline that has characterized the basin since about 1970. Such declines can be responsible for cessation of operations of wells, degradation of groundwater quality, increase in the rate of movement of groundwater contaminants, land subsidence and potential dewatering of surface streams and creeks. The potential for the increased groundwater extraction to exacerbate an existing problem is considered a less-than-

significant impact of the proposed Project for three reasons. First, the amount to be extracted is small when compared to the annual recharge for the groundwater basin, and the additional pumping is a one-time event. Second, and more important, the Project is being implemented to further the objectives of the Groundwater Management Element of the Sacramento Area Water Forum Agreement (WFA). If successful, the proposed Project will lay institutional groundwork for funding and implementing the conjunctive use objectives of the WFA, which will eventually maintain acceptable groundwater elevation and avoid undesirable effects. In addition, the conjunctive use objectives of the WFA were evaluated in the October 15, 1999, “Final Water Forum Proposal Environmental Impact Report”, and determined to have less-than-significant impacts on the environment. Third, and lastly, Northridge Water District has accounted for the delivery of 5,000 acre-feet of surface water in lieu of the extraction of groundwater by Citrus Height Water District and Fair Oaks Water District so that the acquisition of water by Reclamation will not result in, or cause, long-term adverse impacts to the groundwater basin underlying Sacramento County north of the American River. Similarly, the City of Sacramento has accounted for the delivery of 5,000 acre-feet of surface water in lieu of its extraction of groundwater so that the acquisition of water by Reclamation will not result in or cause long-term adverse impacts to the groundwater basin or surface streams or creeks in Sacramento County north of the American River. No mitigation is required.

- c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

See answer d below.

- d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The City of Sacramento’s decision to forebear diversions from the lower American River will result in minor increases in flow downstream of the E. A. Fairbairn Water Treatment Plant and the Sacramento River Water Treatment Plant diversions. The effect of this amount of increased flow is small, since the average annual aggregate volume of releases for this period of the year is much greater than 5,000 acre-feet. The increases in lower American River flows, lower Sacramento River flows, and Delta inflow would be in the range of 10.0 cfs to 17.0 cfs. This magnitude of change in flow is not considered to be substantial because it is such a small percentage (less than one percent) of average flows during the period.

The proposed Project will utilize existing groundwater extraction and reservoir flow release control structures. There will be no changes in drainage patterns because no property will be developed. Reclamation will manage the 5,000 acre-feet of forborne water at the Sidney N. Peterson Water Treatment Plant in a manner that will avoid substantial erosion, sedimentation, and flooding. Therefore, these effects are considered less-than-significant, and no mitigation is required.

There will be increases in surface water releases from Folsom Lake and, consequently flows on the lower American River will be increased during those periods when releases are made by Reclamation to meet EWA objectives. This includes the 5,000 acre-feet of water not diverted at the Sidney N. Peterson Water Treatment Plant at Folsom Lake by San Juan Water District. The increases in flow will affect the lower American River from Folsom Dam to the confluence with the Sacramento River, and will increase Sacramento River flows to the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. Reclamation will release 5,000 acre-feet of water from Folsom Lake in keeping with the objectives of the EWA, which focuses upon maintaining acceptable environmental conditions in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. This magnitude of change is not considered substantial, and the effects of the flow increases are considered less-than-significant.

- e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

There will be no construction associated with the proposed Project, and the operation of the existing groundwater extraction and reservoir flow release facilities will not generate stormwater or additional sources of polluted water.

- f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Any changes in the groundwater elevation will be minor and will not cause degradation of groundwater quality or increase in the rate of movement of groundwater contaminants because the extraction of 10,000 acre-feet is a minor amount when compared with the total annual recharge of the groundwater basin underlying Sacramento County north of the American River and the extraction is a one-time event. Furthermore, the overall objectives of the proposed Project include the groundwater improvement objectives of the Water Forum Agreement. Also, see answer to b above.

- g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project does not include construction.

- h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project does not include construction.

- i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of failure of a levee or dam? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The existing reservoir flow release facilities at Folsom Lake will be operated within their design capabilities. Therefore, there will be no increases in risk associated with flooding.

- j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will utilize existing groundwater extraction and reservoir flow release facilities. All of the facilities will be operated within their design capabilities, and therefore will not contribute to conditions that might cause mudflows or other water-related hazards.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the Project:

- a) Physically divide an established community? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will not include construction of facilities or development of property.

- b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the Project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer to c below.

- c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will not include construction of facilities or development of property. Furthermore, the proposed Project is designed to be consistent with the two co-equal objectives of Water Forum Agreement: “Provide a reliable and safe water supply for the region’s economic health and planned

development through the year 2030; and Preserve the fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values of the lower American River.”

X. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the Project:

- a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer to b below.

- b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will not include construction of facilities or development of property.

XI. NOISE

Would the Project result in:

- a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer to f below.

- b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive Groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

There will be no new sources of groundborne vibration or noise. Existing groundwater extraction facilities will be used in connection with the proposed Project, and existing facilities will be used in the water management component of the proposed Project.

- c) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer to f below.

- d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer to f below.

- e) For a Project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer to f below.

- f) For a Project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

There will be no new sources of noise. Existing groundwater extraction facilities will be used in connection with the proposed Project, and existing facilities will be used in the water management component of the proposed Project.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the Project:

- a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project is a one-year Project that will not substantially change existing water supplies, demands, or uses, and therefore will not affect population growth either directly or indirectly.

- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will not include actions that would displace existing housing. This is because: 1) existing groundwater extraction facilities will be used in the groundwater extraction component of the proposed Project; and 2) the water management component of the proposed Project would not affect existing housing.

- c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will not include actions that would displace people or necessitate the construction of replacement housing. This is because: 1) existing groundwater extraction facilities will be used in the groundwater extraction component of the Project; and 2) the water management component of the Project would not affect existing housing.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

- a) Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
- i) Fire protection? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
- ii) Police protection? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
- iii) Schools? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
- iv) Parks? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
- v) Other Public Facilities? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will not involve the construction of facilities that might require new public services. Furthermore, the proposed Project is limited to a period of one year. Therefore, any water supply benefits of the Project will not remove an obstacle to population growth and the associated increases in the demands for public services.

XIV. RECREATION

Would the Project:

- a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will be limited to a period of one year. Therefore, any water supply benefits of the proposed Project will not remove an obstacle to population growth and will not increase the use of existing recreational facilities.

- b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will not include recreational facilities. Furthermore, the proposed Project is limited to a period of one year. Therefore, any water supply benefits of the proposed Project will not remove an obstacle to

population growth and the associated increases in the demands for recreational facilities.

In addition, there will be a minor positive effect on Folsom Lake storage during March 1, 2002 through November 15, 2002 in keeping reservoir levels slightly higher. The benefits will be small because the 5,000 acre-feet of water foreborne at the Sidney N. Peterson Water Treatment Plant represents only about one half of one percent of the reservoir's total storage capacity of 977,000 acre-feet, and the benefits will occur during one year only. Therefore, the effects of the increased storage are considered less-than-significant and no mitigation is required.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Would the Project:

- a) Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer to g below.

- b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer to g below.

- c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer to g below.

- d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer to g below.

- e) Result in inadequate emergency access? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer to g below.

- f) Result in inadequate parking capacity? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer to g below.

- g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts,

bicycle racks)?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will utilize existing facilities and will not require construction or expansion of the existing facilities. Furthermore, the proposed Project is a one-year Project that will not substantially change existing water supplies, demands, or uses, and therefore will not affect population growth either directly or indirectly. Therefore, the Project will not cause increases in traffic, or contribute to congestion, reductions in the level of service standards or increased safety risks.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the Project:

- a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The Project will utilize existing groundwater extraction and reservoir flow release facilities. There will be no wastewater associated with the Project, and therefore no wastewater treatment requirements will be exceeded.

- b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer to c below.

- c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will not include construction. Furthermore, there will be no construction as an indirect result of the Project. This is because the proposed Project is a one-year Project that will not substantially change existing water supplies, demands, or uses, and therefore will not affect population growth either directly or indirectly.

- d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will not require water service.

- e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment Provider, which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Projects Projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The Project will utilize existing groundwater extraction and reservoir flow release facilities. There will be no wastewater associated with the Project, and therefore no wastewater treatment requirements will be exceeded.

- f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project’s solid waste disposal needs? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will not generate solid waste.

- g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and Regulations related to solid waste? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Project will not generate solid waste.

XV. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Would the project:

- a) Place disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer c below.

- b) Treat people of particular races, cultures or incomes unfairly with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer c below.

- c) Provide fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Environmental justice is a term that refers to the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and income levels with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Executive Order 12898, issued by President Clinton in 1994, requires federal government agencies to consider the potential for their actions or policies to place disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations. The federal executive order was a response to a 1992 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report that revealed minority and low income populations bear a disproportionate share or the burdens of air, pollution, hazardous waste facilities, and other forms of environmental pollution. The executive order requires executive agencies to adopt an environmental justice strategy, creates the Interagency Working Group on Environmental

Justice, encourages public participation to resolve the issue, and requires further research on environmental inequities.

Similar environmental justice coordination and consultation requirements have been enacted into law recently in California. Government Code Section environmental justice and establishes the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research as the coordinating agency in State government for environmental justice programs. Section 65040.12 requires the Director of OPR to consult with the Secretaries of California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA), the Resources Agency, the Trade and Commerce Agency, and other State agencies, as well as with the Working Group on 65040.12 defines Environmental Justice to be established by Cal EPA, to address environmental justice. Public Resources Code Section 72000 et seq. requires the Cal EPA Secretary to take specified actions to promote environmental justice in designing its mission for programs, policies, and standards. Among its major provisions, the statute requires Cal EPA to develop a model environmental justice mission statement for boards, departments, and offices within Cal EPA, to improve research and data collection relative to environmental justice issues, and to ensure greater public participation in the development, adoption and implementation of environmental regulations and policies. Section 72002 requires the Cal EPA Secretary to convene a Working Group on Environmental Justice on or before January 15, 2002 to assist Cal EPA, as specified, in the development of an agency wide environmental justice strategy. The Agency is also required to coordinate and share information with the U.S. EPA with respect to environmental justice.

The proposed Project will not disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations since the City of Sacramento has adequate water supplies for consumptive use by all service area customers. In addition, City of Sacramento’s groundwater sources would not be used to the extent that there would be environmental effects on rural agricultural populations through either water shortage or increased cost of water pumping. In addition, the City will not increase its cost of water delivery because of this Project.

XV. INDIAN TRUST ASSETS

Would the project:

- a) Sell, lease, or alienate any Indian Trust Assets without approval from the United State through the Bureau of Indian Affairs?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

See answer to b below.

- b) Reduce the value of an Indian Trust Asset without approval from the United State through the Bureau of Indian Affairs?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

All federal agencies have a responsibility to protect Indian Trust assets. Indian Trust assets are legal interests in assets held in trust by the federal government for Indian tribes or individuals. Assets may be owned property, physical assets, intangible property rights, a lease or the right to use something. Indian Trust assets may be located both on and off Indian reservations and typically include lands, minerals, water rights, hunting and fishing rights, natural resources, money, and claims. Indian Trust assets do not include properties in which a tribe or individual has no legal interest, such as certain off-reservation sacred lands. Indian Trust assets cannot be sold, leased or alienated or otherwise have their value reduced without approval from the United States through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The proposed project involves minor changes in the operation of Folsom Lake, and minor increases in flow within the lower American River, the lower Sacramento River, and into the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. This project does not involve construction or changes in water allocation that might affect an Indian Trust assets.